

KALAH

Kalah is one of many similar board games played in various parts of the world. They are generically known as mancala games and have been played for thousands of years in Egypt, where boards have been found carved into the stone of the pyramid of Cheops and the temples at Luxor and Karnak. The game spread to Asia and Africa, where the Arabs developed certain variations. It thus survived through all the epochs of Egyptian history. European travellers were introduced to it in the cafes of nineteenth-century Cairo, where it was customary for the loser to pay for the coffee drunk during the game.

African slaves brought 'mancala' games to Surinam and the West Indies, where they survive unchanged. In some rural areas of Africa today, children play these age-old games on 'boards' scooped out of the ground.

Though traditionally played by primitive tribesmen, the strategy of these games is highly complex and demands a fine mathematical calculation of possible moves and their results.

INSTRUCTIONS

THE BOARD:

This has 12 playing cups in two rows of six and two scoring or capturing cups.

THE OBJECTIVE:

Each player attempts to capture as many seeds as possible.

START OF PLAY:

Five seeds are placed in each of the 12 playing holes. If a one player game is selected, player one has the lower set of cups (green) and the computer is the top row of red cups.

If a two player game is selected, player one is the green lower cups and player two is the red upper cups.

PLAYING:

In his turn, each player takes all the seeds from one cup on his side of the board and 'sows' them one by one in the cups around the board in an anti-clockwise direction — thus if there were four seeds in his cup, he sows one of them in each of the next four cups. If there are more than 12 seeds in a cup then the movement of the seeds from that cup will be more than one circuit of the board.

CAPTURING:

A player makes a capture if he sows the last seed from a cup into his scoring or capturing cup. This entitles the player to take another turn.

LOADING INSTRUCTIONS:

To Load: Type LOAD", then press RETURN key (no name required). You may have to adjust the volume settings and remember to have the tone on high. Once the program has loaded, stop the tape and type RUN, push CR.

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